

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An anticollision method to identify data carriers ~~(2, 3, 4)~~ arranged in a communication field ~~(HF)~~ of a reader station ~~(1)~~, which method involves the following steps:

- sending interrogation information ~~(AI)~~ from the reader station ~~(1)~~ to all data carriers ~~(2, 3, 4)~~ arranged in the communication field ~~(HF)~~, as a result of which the start of a quantity of N successive time slots ~~(S1, S2, S3, S4)~~ is defined;
- sending response information ~~(RI1, RI2, RI3)~~ from the data carriers ~~(2, 3, 4)~~ to the reader station ~~(1)~~, wherein each data carrier ~~(2, 3, 4)~~ selects one of the N time slots ~~(S1, S2, S3, S4)~~ to send its response information ~~(RI1, RI2, RI3)~~ identifying the data carrier ~~(2, 3, 4)~~;
- sending a time-slot progressing information ~~(ZWI)~~, for progressing from the current time slot ~~(S)~~ to the time slot ~~(Si)~~ following next in line, from the reader station ~~(1)~~ to the data carriers ~~(2, 3, 4)~~, characterized in that the time-slot progressing information ~~(ZWI)~~ comprises a time-slot characterizing information, which identifies one of the N time slots ~~(S)~~, and which is evaluated by the data carriers ~~(2, 3, 4)~~ in order to establish the current time slot ~~(S)~~ in each case.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An anticollision method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the time-slot progressing information ~~(ZWI)~~ is sent by the reader station ~~(1)~~ if it has been established by the reader station ~~(1)~~ that the current time slot ~~(S)~~ is inappropriate for identifying one of the data carriers ~~(2, 3, 4)~~.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An anticollision method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the time-slot characterizing information is formed by two pulses ~~(P1, P2)~~, wherein the time duration ~~(TN)~~ of a pulse interval between the two pulses ~~(P1, P2)~~ identifies one of the N time slots ~~(S)~~.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An anticollision method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the time-slot characterizing information is formed by multiple pulses, which identify a consecutive time-slot number ~~(ZN)~~.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An anticollision method as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the time-slot characterizing information contains a checksum (PS) of the time-slot number(ZN).

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An anticollision method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the reader station (1)-sends the time-slot progressing information (ZWI)-if has been established by the reader station (1)-that more than one of the data carriers (2, 3, 4)-are responding in the current time slot-(S), or if it has been established by the reader station (1)-that none of the data carriers (2, 3, 4)-is responding in the current time slot-(S).

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier (2, 3, 4)-to respond to an interrogation information (AI)-received from a reader station (1)-with a response information (RI1, RI2, RI3)-identifying the data carrier (2, 3, 4)-during one of N time slots-(S1, S2, S3, S4), with receiver means (9)-to receive the interrogation information (AI)-and the time-slot progressing information (ZWI)-from the reader station-(1), and with time-slot definition means-(11), which are designed to define the sequence of the N time slots (S1, S2, S3, S4)-as a function of the instant (t1)-of reception of the interrogation information-(AI), wherein, on receipt of the time-slot progressing information-(ZWI), progressing takes place from the current time slot (S)-to the time slot (Si)-following next in line, and with

- sending-definition means (12)-to define one of the N time slots (S1, S2, S3, S4)-as a return time slot in which the data carrier (2, 3, 4)-sends the response information (RI1, RI2, RI3)-to the reader station-(1); and with

- sending means (9)-to send the response information (RI1, RI2, RI3)-to the reader station-(1), characterized in that the time-slot progressing information (ZWI)-comprises a time-slot characterizing information, which identifies one of the N time slots-(S1, S2, S3, S4), and that the time-slot definition means (12)-are designed to evaluate the time-slot characterizing information in order to determine the current time slot (S)-in each case.

8. A data carrier (2, 3, 4)-as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the time-slot definition means (12)-comprise a counter, which is designed to determine

the time duration (~~TN~~) of a pulse interval between two pulses (~~P1, P2~~) of the time-slot characterizing information.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier (~~2, 3, 4~~) as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the time-slot definition means (~~12~~) are designed to evaluate multiple pulses of the time-slot characterizing information, wherein the pulses identify a consecutive time-slot number (~~ZN~~).

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier (~~2, 3, 4~~) as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the time-slot definition means (~~12~~) are designed to evaluate a checksum (~~PS~~) of the time-slot number (~~ZN~~) contained in the time-slot characterizing information.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A reader station (~~1~~) to identify data carriers (~~2, 3, 4~~), which are arranged in a communication field (~~HF~~) of the reader station (~~1~~), with sending means (~~5~~) to send an interrogation information (~~AI~~) and a time-slot progressing information (~~ZWI~~) to all data carriers (~~2, 3, 4~~) arranged in the communication field (~~HF~~), wherein, as a result of the interrogation information (~~AI~~), the start of a quantity of N successive time slots (~~S1, S2, S3, S4~~) is defined, and wherein, as a result of the time-slot progressing information (~~ZWI~~), progressing takes place from the current time slot (~~S~~) to the time slot (~~Si~~) following next in line, and with receiver means (~~5~~) to receive a response information (~~RI1, RI2, RI3~~) from the data carriers (~~2, 3, 4~~) in the communication field (~~HF~~), wherein each data carrier (~~2, 3, 4~~) individually selects one of the N time slots (~~S1, S2, S3, S4~~) as the return time slot to send its response information (~~RI1, RI2, RI3~~) identifying the data carrier (~~2, 3, 4~~); and with

- time-slot evaluation means (~~7~~) to evaluate the response information (~~RI1, RI2, RI3~~) received from the data carriers (~~2, 3, 4~~) in the particular time slot (~~S1, S2, S3, S4~~), characterized in that the reader station (~~1~~) is designed to send a time-slot progressing information (~~ZWI~~) comprising a time-slot characterizing information, wherein the time-slot characterizing information identifies one of the N time slots (~~S1, S2, S3, S4~~), and is evaluated by the data carriers (~~2, 3, 4~~) in order to establish the current time slot (~~S~~) in each case.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A reader station ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the sender means ~~(5)~~ are designed to send the time-slot progressing information ~~(ZWI)~~ if it has been established by the time-slot evaluation means ~~(7)~~ that the current time slot ~~(S)~~ is inappropriate for identifying one of the data carriers ~~(2, 3, 4)~~.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A reader station ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the time-slot characterizing information is formed by two pulses ~~(P1, P2)~~, wherein the time duration ~~(TN)~~ of a pulse interval between the two pulses ~~(P1, P2)~~ identifies one of the N time slots ~~(S1, S2, S3, S4)~~.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A reader station ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the time-slot characterizing information is formed by multiple pulses, which identify a consecutive time-slot number ~~(ZN)~~.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A reader station ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the time-slot characterizing information contains a checksum ~~(PS)~~ of the time-slot number ~~(ZN)~~.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A reader station ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the reader station ~~(1)~~ sends the time-slot progressing information ~~(ZWI)~~ if it has been established by the time-slot evaluation means ~~(7)~~ that more than one of the data carriers ~~(2, 3, 4)~~ are responding in the current time slot ~~(S)~~, or if it has been established by the time-slot evaluation means ~~(7)~~ that none of the data carriers ~~(2, 3, 4)~~ is responding in the current time slot ~~(S)~~.